

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows:

-- CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of pending United States Patent Application No. 09/564,357 filed April 24, 2000; which application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/131,156 filed April 27, 1999, which are where this provisional application is incorporated herein by reference in their entireties its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27, as follows:

Figure 5 is a sequence alignment showing sequence similarity between DSP-5 and other MAP-kinase phosphatases (SEQ ID NOS: 15-22).